



**Geàrr-chunntas Choinneamh Bhliadhnail UTS
MINUTES of STAFFIN COMMUNITY TRUST AGM 2016 –
27.9.16 at Sgoil Stafainn, 7.30pm**

1. An làthair - Present:

Directors/Trustees: Donald MacDonald (Chair), Dugald Ross, Angus Ross, Ian MacDonald, Sandy Ogilvie, Gordon Higgins, Roddy Gillies, Sine Ghilleasbuig

Members: Kerry Lyall, Jennifer Shanks, Morag MacDonald, Catriona Ross, Iain MacDonald, Charles MacLeod, Martin Farquhar

SCT Local Development Officer: Hugh Ross

Organic Sea Harvest: Robert Gray, Alister Mackinnon, Hugh Drever

In attendance: Iain MacDonald, Charles MacLeod, Alasdair Beaton, Kilmuir

Apologies: Alex MacInnes, Organic Sea Harvest [ferry did not sail], Seán Ó'Drisceoil

2. Fàilte – Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2016 AGM of SCT. He thanked Hugh Ross for his diligent work over the past year and in particular dealing with consultations and funding applications.

3. Geàrr-chunntais 2015 - Mins of 2015 AGM [26.5.15]

Due to a printing difficulty, the Secretary was not able to table the minutes to the previous year's meeting but they were to be circulated to all the members and would also be published on the SCT website.

4. Facal an fhear chathrach - Chairman's Address

The Chairman highlighted the key projects that SCT was engaged with but asked those present to wait until a full report was given, by the LDO, after the formal AGM.

5. Cunntais - Accounts

Angus Ross, treasurer, tabled the previous year's accounts [1.4.15-31.3.16], as prepared by Donald Rankin, accountant.

SCT Ltd is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of The Companies Act 2006.

6. Appointment of Directors

The Chair invited any proposals for new Directors and the following nominations were made:

1. Martin Farquhar – Nominated by Angus Ross and seconded by Gordon Higgins.
2. Kerry Lyall – Nominated by Ian MacDonald and seconded by Jen Shanks.

3. Catriona Ross – Nominated by Sine Gillespie and seconded by Roddy Gillies

Re-appointment of existing Directors

4. Sandy Ogilvie
5. Gordon Higgins
6. Roddy Gillies.

Directors Standing down

Donald MacDonald
Dugald Ross
Angus Ross
Ian MacDonald
Sine Ghilleasbuig.

Co-opted to the Board with specialism skills (no voting rights)

Angus Ross	Treasurer
Sine Ghilleasbuig	Secretary

7. Buill ‘àbhaisteach’ – ‘Ordinary’ Members [as termed in the Articles]

It was reported that the number of ordinary members stood currently at 75. An invitation was opened to anyone present who wished to join.

8. An luchd-chunntais - Re-appointment of auditors/accountant

Donald Rankin, accountant, was duly nominated by Sine Gillespie and seconded by Roddy Gillies for a further year [1.4.16 to 31.3.17].

9. Gnothach iomchaidh sam bith eile - Any other competent business

The Chairman thanked the trustees of SCT for their efforts. He also acknowledged the support of Highlands and Islands Enterprise and The Highland Council. He then thanked everyone for attending the AGM and encouraged everyone to consult regularly with SCT’s website www.staffin-trust.co.uk The Chairman also encouraged people to communicate directly with Hugh Ross, who is based at the portacabin by the Church of Scotland [Tel 01470 562 464].

Following the AGM, the Chair invited Hugh Ross to give a detailed update of the key projects, excluding the Slipway which would be presented by Alister MacKinnon, Robert Gray and Hugh Drever, as representatives of Organic Sea Harvest.

- **The Storr Project**

Hugh advised that the process had taken some time but discussions were ongoing with the Council. The public and individual household consultations had given a clear remit as to what was needed in terms of parking, toilets and interpretation. SCT had appointed consultants to pull proposals together, discuss the project further with the Council and present specific options to the by the end of October 2016. Since then it had become apparent that the Council were proposing to move forward with its own parking charges.

The Chair expressed concern that the Council had been more ‘open’ at the start of discussions than they were at this stage and invited Alister MacKinnon, in his role as a Highland Councillor, to comment. Alister confirmed that the Council were looking to

derive income from all possible sources, including parking where appropriate. He also stated that THC priorities included working with communities and that SCT should continue towards finding a suitable solution suitable for the community.

The Chair invited comments from the floor:

Q. Kerry Lyall suggested that there could be potentially significant income from filmmakers using the Storr, if SCT was to purchase the Council land.

Donald MacDonald said that as the Storr belongs to SGRIPID it is unlikely that funding could be accrued to SCT as the land in question is outwith the area in discussion, it is owned by Scottish Ministers and tenanted.

Response:- Kerry advised that the area he had in mind was the car parking and access which would be needed by film crews.

Q. Jennifer Shanks enquired whether the proposed THC car parking fees would remain in Skye, or whether this money would go direct to THC.

Hugh Ross said there was no guarantee that income from Council parking charges would remain in Skye.

- **Ceumannan**

Hugh said that the delivery stage of the ecomuseum project [Ceumannan] is imminent with a National Lottery award of £522,000, to be announced formally within the coming week. This project will engage the community in a variety of educational subjects. A viewing platform at Lealt Gorge will be built, along with new pathways, car parking and revised interpretation. More significantly, it will provide a new full-time job of Ceumannan project manager for a period of three years. However, the balance of funding is still required and SCT will be submitting an application to the Coastal Communities Fund.

There were no questions from the floor.

- **Taigheadas/Housing**

Hugh Ross said that SCT is working on the proposed construction of a proposed 6 houses on a site just beyond the school on the Maligar/Marishadder Road. This partnership project with the Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association and The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust would provide the first new affordable houses in Staffin for 17 years. It is hoped that young families will apply. To date three expressions of interest from local families have been received and Hugh said their support, and other residents, working towards a planning application would be appreciated. SCT and its partners were now investigating funding options for the planning process and construction stage.

In addition to the houses, should demand exist, a commercial unit might be built. The Chairman encouraged people to enquire if they felt that they would make use of such a facility. There were no questions from the floor.

- **A' Chidhe - Staffin Slipway**

At this stage the Chair gave the floor to Organic Sea Harvest (OSH).

- Alister, Robert Gray and Hugh Drever delivered a presentation of their plans.
- OSH emphasised that they are respectful of the community towards whom they feel a commitment having always sought its goodwill.
- The former project – driven by Skye Sea Harvest - has been shelved and an entirely new development is planned to produce organic salmon.

- To take the new development forward, a new company – Organic Sea Harvest – has been formed. Its directors are Hugh Drever, Alister Mackinnon, Robert Gray and Alex MacInnes.
- There are plans for four small-scale, low impact, organic salmon farms. Subject to approval and scoping, two will be sited at Cùl nan cnoc and Invertote. Two additional ones will be sited further north. All sites will be sensitively chosen and are currently being “scoped” with the Crown Estate, etc.
- There will be 12 cages, located side by side, at each site, each with a diameter of 30 metres.
- The organic salmon will be a branded, niche product. Only two other companies produce organic salmon - in Scotland and Ireland. A name has not yet been decided upon but the meeting is hopeful that it will reflect the area. There is a constant and stable market for this product.
- Hugh Drever from Westray in Orkney is involved with the only other organic salmon farm nationally. Hugh said that the Westray school has 68 children and that this is a direct result of the success of the salmon business.
- Whilst OSH has plans to modify the Slipway itself with some dredging etc, the extent of the work has been scaled down considerably compared to what was planned under Skye Sea Harvest.
- OSH will require a processing plant which will not be located at The Slipway, negating the need for major works to the road.

Questions were invited from the audience.

Q. Sandy Ogilvie asked if consideration had been given to the proposed fish farm sites which are prime creel grounds. **OSH Response:** Robert said that these fishermen are to be very much involved in discussions.

Q. Sandy enquired whether if successful the project would expand. **Response:** No, it would not, as the intention is to retain control and produce a quality product.

Q. Sandy enquired whether there would be a conflict with existing fishing methods, for safety. **Response:** This matter is currently being scoped.

Q. Ian MacDonald asked for clarity on the number of jobs. **Response:** it is estimated that there will be up to fifty – some being part-time – jobs.

Q. Jennifer Shanks said that the abandonment of the previous project had left the community sceptical. **Response:** This was acknowledged by OSH and they pledged to be fully transparent and work hard to prove to the community that the project was a significant opportunity for Staffin.

Q. The Chair asked OSH what the timescale might be. **Response:** Planning permission will be sought at the earliest in September 2017. There will be a public meeting in early 2017 to present proposals for the fish farms to the community.

The Chair brought the meeting to a close, and thanked everyone for their attendance.